

Informed Consent Form

Authorization for a Minor to Serve as a Research Participant

Dear Parents,

I will be conducting a study in the classroom to determine if beginning the day with cultural studies will increase engagement and improve reading scores. I am writing to ask permission to use the data I collect from your child during this process. Participation in this study involves only regular classroom activities. You may contact me at any time regarding your child's participation. My phone number is 801-827-0150 ext. 110. Ms. Stephanie Speicher, the director of the school has approved this study.

The purpose of the study is to determine if beginning the day with cultural studies increases engagement throughout the day along with increasing reading scores. The study will take place in our classroom 9 weeks from September 2-November 15. During the study, I will collect various forms of data to determine whether *Cultivating Engagement and Improving Reading Scores Through the Cosmic Curriculum* was successful. Possible types of data I will collect include:

- Data Source 1- Observational data-A checklist will be created to measure student engagement in cultural activities. Including; how often children are working on expanding a cultural lesson throughout the day, trips to the cultural shelves and the use of non-fiction books.
- Data Source 2- Artifacts- Pre and Post DIBELS Reading Assessments-these tests show growth in specific reading skills including fluency and comprehension.
- Data Source 3-Artifacts-Student Journals will be used with occasional writing prompts to gauge engagement throughout the intervention.
- Data Source 4- Inquiry Data-Conferencing will be used to explore student perceptions of cultural lessons as well as their perceived engagement in periodic lessons.

Possible benefits of participating in this study include:

- ❖ Cultural studies will be given priority and the chance of missed science lessons will be minimized.
- ❖ Students will be more engaged and interested in cultural shelves and independent study.
- ❖ Connections will be made across the curriculum for a more meaningful education.
- ❖ Data will provide further education for our teachers regarding strategies, skills, and tools to use to integrate and collaborate subjects and classrooms.

My observations, surveys and interviews will be kept in a locked file cabinet. Any data collected on a computer will be password protected. Children will not be referred to by their real names, they will either be a number or an alias. Only myself (Ms. Kacee), my academic advisor, Syneva Barrett and Ms. Stephanie Speicher will have access to the data collected in this study. Your child's participation in this project is strictly confidential. Myself (Ms. Kacee) Ms. Stephanie and Syneva Barrett, will have access to information that can be associated with your child's identity.

Use of data from your child is voluntary. You may contact me at any time if you do not wish to have your child's data included in the study. kweaver@mariamontessoriacademy.org or 801-827-0150 ext. 110

Sincerely,

Ms. Kacee

Please check the appropriate box below and sign the form:

- ☐ I give permission for my child's data to be used in this study. I understand that I will receive a signed copy of this consent form. I have read this form and understand it.
- ☐ I do not give permission for my child's data to be included in this project.

Student's Name

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date